

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3515
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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USICA FOR PGM/RC

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SUBJECT: CAMP DAVID TALKS ENTER DECISIVE STAGE

SUMMARY. PRESS DEPICTS CAMP DAVID TALKS AS HAVING ENTERED
DECISIVE STAGE; "OBSERVERS" SAY NEXT 48 HOURS WILL BE
CRITICAL. MAIN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TWO SIDES IS WEST
BANK. THERE IS MORE PESSIMISM IN TODAY'S PRESS THAN
PREVIOUSLY, WITH "EGYPTIAN SOURCES" CLAIMING LACK OF
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PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS. EDITORIALS REITERATE EGYPT
SEEKING COMPREHENSIVE AND JUST PEACE, REQUIRING SOLUTION
TO PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. GUMHURIYYA ARGUES THAT THE
DIFFERENCES AT CAMP DAVID DEMONSTRATE EGYPT IS CLEARLY
FIGHTING ARAB BATTLE AT THE SUMMIT. END SUMMARY.

1. AT "DECISIVE STAGE," WEST BANK IS MAIN ISSUE. BANNER

HEADLINES IN AHRAH AND AKHBAR STRESS CAMP DAVID TALKS NOW ENTER DECISIVE STAGE; "OBSERVERS" REPORTEDLY FEEL THAT THE NEXT 48 HOURS WILL BE CRITICAL. ALL PAPERS AGREE THAT THE MAIN PROBLEM IS THE WEST BANK: ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND THE PALESTINIANS' RIGHT TO DETERMINE THEIR FUTURE. AHRAH QUOTES A "RESPONSIBLE EGYPTIAN SOURCE" AS CONFIRMING THAT THERE ARE ALSO DIFFERENCES REGARDING THE "FRAMEWORK OF SETTLEMENT." AKHBAR'S MAHA ABDEL FATAH, CITING UNIDENTIFIED "OBSERVERS", ADDS THAT FUTURE OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS AND ISRAELI SECURITY CONCERNS ARE ALSO PROBLEMS. MAHA ABDEL FATAH CLAIMS ISRAELIS HAVE NOT MADE REQUIRED CONCESSIONS CONCERNING THE WEST BANK.

2. PROGNOSIS. AHRAH EXPECTS FOURTH TRIPARTITE SUMMIT MEETING TODAY, ALTHOUGH GUMHURIYYA'S HODA TEWFIK SAYS NEXT MEETING STILL NOT SCHEDULED. TEWFIK HIGHLIGHTS BEGIN STATEMENT THAT TALKS ARE GOING WELL AND WEIZMAN'S REMARK THAT THE DELEGATIONS NEED TWO OR THREE MORE DAYS. DESPITE ISRAELI OPTIMISM, TEWFIK QUOTES EGYPTIAN SOURCES AS SAYING NO REAL PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, THE TALKS ARE MOVING VERY SLOWLY, AND THERE IS NO SIGN THAT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL CONCERNING THE NATURE OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WILL BE OVERCOME. THESE SAME SOURCES SAY THAT POWELL'S EARLIER HOPEFUL REMARKS REFERRED TO THE CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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CONFERENCE AND NOT TO THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED.

3. IF MEETINGS FAIL. AKHBAR BOARD CHAIRMAN AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF MOUSSA SABRI, WRITING FROM CAMP DAVID, BELIEVES NO DELEGATION HAS MADE FINAL DECISIONS, ALTHOUGH ALL THE ISSUES HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED. NOTING ABSENCE OF NEWS, SABRI EXPECTS THAT, IF THE CONFERENCE FAILS, PRESIDENT CARTER WILL ANNOUNCE REASONS FOR DIFFERENCES AND PIN BLAME FOR FAILURE. SADAT, TOO, WILL GO PUBLIC BEFORE LAUNCHING NEW POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN IN AMERICA, EUROPE OR IN THE ARAB WORLD.

4. ISRAEL-EGYPT BYPLAY. AHRAH CONTRASTS ISRAELI NEWSPAPERS' CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM" WITH REUTERS REPORT, WHICH SAYS SADAT BELIEVES THAT PROGRESS IS EXTREMELY LIMITED. ISRAELIS, OBSERVERS SAY, ARE ATTEMPTING TO SPREAD AN AIR OF FALSE OPTIMISM TO DENIGRATE SUMMIT'S IMPORTANCE.

5. COMMENTARIES. AHRAH WARNS THAT WITHOUT SOLVING PALESTINIAN PROBLEM THERE WILL BE NO SUCCESS, FOR EGYPT

REJECTS "HALF-SOLUTIONS" AND WILL ACCEPT NOTHING SHORT
OF COMPREHENSIVE AND JUST SETTLEMENT. GUMHURIYYA
CRITICIZES REJECTIONISTS WHO BELIEVE EGYPT SEEKS A
UNILATERAL PEACE AGREEMENT. EDITORIAL ARGUES THAT
EGYPT WOULD NOT HAVE ENTERED "FEROCIOUS BATTLE" AT CAMP
DAVID IF SHE WERE SEEKING A SEPARATE SOLUTION. FACT
THAT U.S. SPOKESMAN HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE ARE
MAJOR DIFFERENCES MEANS EGYPT IS INSISTING ON ALL ARAB
RIGHTS: TOTAL WITHDRAWAL, RETURN OF ALL ARAB TERRITORIES,
AND RESTORATION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. UNFORTUNATELY,
SOME ARABS DO NOT UNDERSTAND OR WANT TO UNDERSTAND.
ONLY DIRECT REFERENCE TO BEGIN CONTAINED IN AKHBAR'S
COLUMN WHICH CLAIMS PM'S "ZIONISM AND MILITARISM" ARE
THE OBSTACLES TO ALLOWING PALESTINIANS THEIR
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RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION. MATTHEWS

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